

REMARKS

In this paper, claim 1 is currently amended. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-24 are pending, wherein claims 2-6, 8-14 and 19-24 have been temporarily withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1, 7, 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi (JP 10-159964). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the inhibiting unit inhibits the output of a second shift signal after the output of a first shift signal regardless of whether the first shift signal corresponded to a shifting direction that is the same as or different from a shifting direction corresponding to the second shift signal. Kobayashi discloses a bicycle control system wherein a control circuit 18 disables, for a predetermined number of times, gear downshifting immediately following a gear upshift operation, or gear upshifting immediately following a gear downshift operation. Delay is performed only when shifting in the opposite direction from a previous shift so as not to delay progressive shifting in the same direction which would, in turn, affect the shift feel during normal operation.

There is no motivation to modify Kobayashi's bicycle control system to inhibit the output of a second shift signal after the output of a first shift signal regardless of whether the first shift signal corresponded to a shifting direction that is the same as or different from a shifting direction corresponding to the second shift signal, because such would affect the shift feel during normal operation wherein progressive upshifts or downshifts are desired without delay.

Claims 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above. Furthermore, this is not a situation where a result effective variable is optimized, but a situation wherein the shifting unit may not be able to operate effectively at all.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in

HARUYUKI TAKEBAYASHI

PATENT

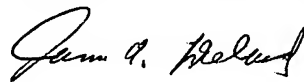
Application No.: 10/091,751

Page 7

condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

James A. Deland

Reg. No. 31,242

DELAND LAW OFFICE

P.O. Box 69

Klamath River, California 96050

(530) 465-2430